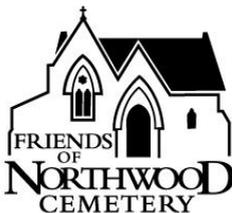


NEWSLETTER NUMBER 28



FEBRUARY 2015

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Editorial

Hot off the press is the news that the Trustees succeeded in submitting the 'Round 2' application to the **Heritage Lottery Fund** (HLF) with just 4 days to spare (it had to be received by the HLF in London before the end of February to qualify for consideration in their next wave of funding - or we incurred a minimum of a 6 months delay).

To recap, 'Round 1' (the 'Development phase' - which was awarded last July) secured us **£75,300** (in fact we came in just *under* budget) to fund the detailed professional work to precisely specify and cost the works required to restore the chapels *and* undertake a range of community activities (such as creating a Woodland Burial ground and a 'Heritage Trail') in support of our application. Whilst putting that bid together (this time last year) it was *estimated* that the full cost of the Project would be some **£1,064,000**.

Now that the professionals (Architects, Structural Engineers and Landscape consultants etc) have conducted detailed surveys, both above ground and below ground, it is apparent that the full cost of the **Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project** will be substantially more than £1,064,000 - entirely fuelled by the rapid deterioration of the East Chapel since we embarked on the Project last July. The digging of underground trial holes, as well as examination of the cavities behind the internal walls, has revealed that a much more complex engineering solution is necessary than was first envisaged. This could not have been predicted without the detailed survey work which was funded by, and undertaken in, the now completed Development phase.

Accordingly our Round 2 ('Delivery phase') grant application has gone up to over **£1.6m** - so we have to re-apply to the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and request more funding than was envisaged. We will know whether the HLF are going to accept our revised (and far more researched) bid in July. So, it's 'fingers crossed time' once again!

But the fact that the Development phase was completed within budget and within schedule (at the outset the HLF said the schedule we set ourselves was **very** ambitious!) will, we hope, stand us in good stead and is testimony to the skills and experience of our Project Management team.

The team have also overseen the development of 4 significant supporting documents, each of which is over 60 pages.

With apologies to those who do not have access to the Internet, these can be viewed on the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery's** website at:

<http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/heritage-lottery-news/>

These documents are:

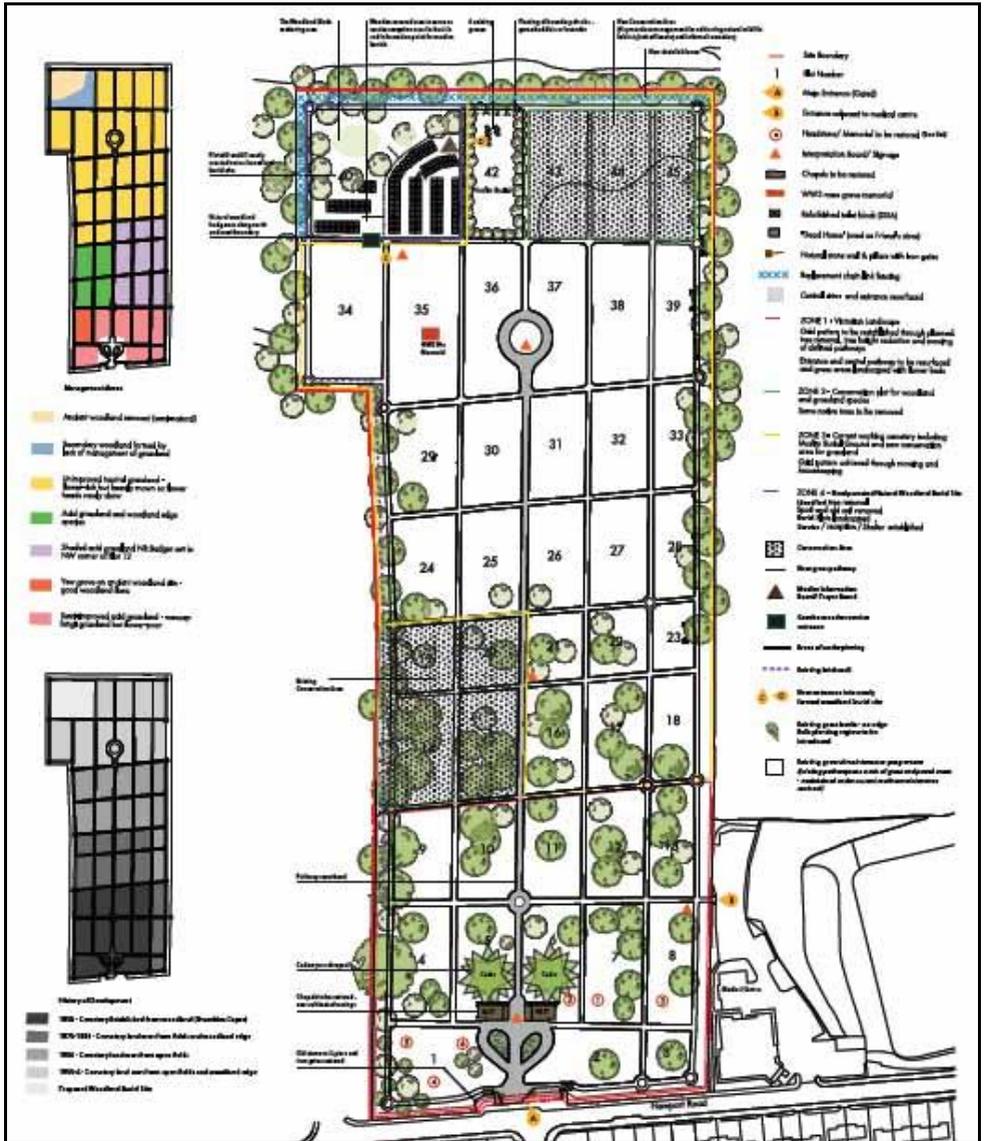
- a **Historical Landscape Assessment** (a recorded history of the Cemetery);
- a **Conservation Plan** (highlighting the conservation value of the Cemetery);
- a **Management and Maintenance Plan** (from 2017 to 2027); and
- an **Activity Plan** (detailing community-based activities the project will deliver).

In addition there's a **Master Plan** of Northwood Cemetery (shown opposite). It is well recognised that the scale of this plan is too small for you to read with comfort (without a magnifying glass anyway!) but it is included here merely to illustrate the detailed work carried out within the Development phase.

As you'll appreciate it has been a Herculean effort to get this far and our thanks go, first and foremost, to our Project Managers (**The Project Firm**) and to our contracted suppliers - the Architects (the **Radley House Partnership**); the Structural Engineers (**Hockley and Dawson**) and the Landscape consultants (the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**).

This Project is being overseen by a formal partnership between the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** (the 'Lead Partner') and the **Isle of Wight Council**, bringing the unique resources of both parties together for the common good. We are very grateful to the Officers within the **Isle of Wight Council** for their support in moving matters forward in very austere times for local councils - not just here on the Island but up and down the country.

To deliver this Project we have included many hours of volunteer time and, if we fail to meet the targets we have set ourselves, the HLF will withhold funding. So a key focus for the Trustees is the recruitment of new blood to help with the exciting challenges ahead; we need more people to come forward - even if it is just for a few hours a month or, perhaps, to become involved with a specific activity (such as helping with school trips to the Cemetery which we have committed to deliver as part of the Project).



Years 2016 and 2017 will, we hope, see Northwood Cemetery as a vibrant centre of much activity – and now new faces are sought to engage in seeing this Project through to a successful conclusion. Alas all roles are voluntary - but if you are a ‘team player’, and have a *sense of achievement* in your DNA, then the Secretary would love to hear from you. Please don’t be shy!

Jon Matthews
Chairman

Do you have any photos tucked away?

A casual conversation with **Margaret Lloyd**, a past Mayor of East Cowes, resulted in her allowing me to copy these images (below and opposite).

They show the funeral procession of **Jonas Hoare**, her great grandfather.

These photos taken on 18th February 1929 are particularly welcome as we have found very few early images relating to the Cemetery. If **you** have any photos of the Cemetery we would love to have the chance to copy them



The picture above is easy to place as the Cemetery wall and the Kingston Arms are clear to see. In 1929 the other side of the road was meadowland - before houses were built.

Jonas was a member of the Salvation Army (the Salvation Army Citadel, presumably where the funeral service took place, was in Denmark Road) and it can be seen that the Salvation Army turned out in force. He lived at 17 St Mary's Road in Cowes.

We could probably run a "where is it?" competition with the image opposite; it caused much head scratching! However it has been identified as being the lower end of Newport Road in Cowes - where the National Spiritualist Church is today.

The clue lies in the gable end in the background; this is on the end of the first 3 houses (numbers 2, 4 and 6) in Newport Road (*Ed – my own father was born, in March 1913, in the front bedroom of number 6!*).



2015 Annual General Meeting

This is an early notification that the AGM will take place on **Monday 15th June** at the Kingston Arms in Newport Road. More details will follow in the **May** newsletter.

David Jones

Secretary

New Editor

I am delighted to advise you that **Jo McKinnie**, a resident of Consort Road in Cowes, has agreed to take on the role of Newsletter Editor.

Jo has recently retired and is cruising in the Caribbean during January and February 2015 - so I'll leave her to introduce herself in the May newsletter!

Jon Matthews

Chairman

Membership

We've closed the membership books for 2014-2015 with **253** "Friends" of Northwood Cemetery – of which **36** are Life members.

The new fiscal year starts on 1st April when subscriptions become due for 2015-2016 (except, of course, for these 36).

Given the need for 'match funding' in support of our **Heritage Lottery Fund** grant, it has never been more important for subscriptions to be collected. If everyone who pays an **annual** subscription continues to do so, then nearly **£2,000** will swell the coffers.

So a massive PLEASE if you are one of these members! A cheque for £10 (£15 for joint members) sent to the Secretary (address on the front) – or a trip to:

http://www.parishchest.com/FONC_Membership_Donations_LID8065

will do the trick. We pay a commission for online payments, so a small donation would be appreciated if that's your preferred method. And there's also the Life membership option at £100 to consider!

In the last quarter we welcome **Paul Arnold**, of Newport, who joined as a Life member.

Sheila Caws

Membership Secretary

Ground Preservation report

We have continued to focus on clearing the plots and paths close to the entrance to the **Cowes Medical Centre** but have been hampered by the weather and by the fact that several of our regular volunteers have followed the sun this winter to various parts of the world; this has also deprived us of transport so there's a lot of brash still to dispose of with no immediate prospect of doing this before the spring.

We have also halted, we hope temporarily, the Tree Sponsorship programme as those that we have planted have not 'taken' as we would all wish – and the wooden plaques did not enjoy the weather conditions to which they were exposed. The plaques have been sanded down and treated and will be remounted in the spring.

However, benches on the 'top roundabout' are available to sponsor at £150 each.

Richard Day

Grounds Preservation Manager

Quiz Nights

Another entertaining **Quiz Night** was held at the Kingston Arms on Friday 28th November 2014 and congratulations go to the winning team calling themselves **Bastinado** comprising of Cowes' locals: **Malcolm Hardy, Kieran Leahy** and **Roy London**. A total of **£107** was raised on the night. Thanks go to **Jacky Hunt** for her skills as our 'quiz mistress'.

This augments **£388** that was raised during 2014 by *ad hoc* Quiz Nights on Wednesday evenings at the **Cowes Ale House** on Shooters Hill. Our thanks go to **Rod Kellaway**, the Cowes Ale House's Bar manager (and quiz night organiser) and the redoubtable **Jeff Ledicott**, the quiz master.

150 Years Ago

The extreme weather of recent years has reminded me of an article I discovered in the *Isle of Wight Observer* of 17th February 1866, regarding a severe storm exactly one hundred and fifty years ago this month. It left a catalogue of destruction along many parts of Southern England, including the Isle of Wight.

Northwood Cemetery at that time was just 10 years old and consisted of 10 burial plots, covering a mere quarter of its current footprint of 17 acres. It had a capacity for almost 4,000 grave spaces and was surrounded by a wall on 3 sides; the wall being built by a Mr Phillis of Southampton - his tender being the lowest at £195 15s.

Terrific Gale

reference: *Isle of Wight Observer* 17th February 1866

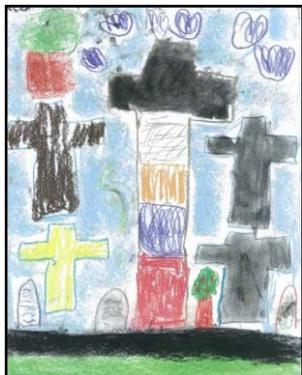
In the Park of Mr Ward's, many noble trees succumbed to the gale, including oaks, cedars and stately elms, laid in some places, curled up as if by an iron hand; while from the flood of rain which accompanied the storm everybody was pretty well occupied in baling water out of their premises. The new wall at the cemetery, which had 9" pipes inserted in it to take off any storm water which may run down into the valley, was washed clean away, although backed up by 18" piers; the water however, was unable to find its way out of the pipes fast enough, and speedily rose as high as the wall, which in a short time gave way under the immense pressure it had to sustain.

The perimeter wall was only on the North, East and West sides of the Cemetery and I would assume that the major volume of water would have been running through the valley (from the direction of the reservoir) into Shamblers Copse. The wall on the West side was just over 4ft in places and what that torrent of water must have looked like we can only imagine.

Barry Sowerby

Historian

School Competition



To support the grant that we requested from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we have committed to run some community-based activities. In November, to engage schoolchildren, we announced a competition for 7 and 8 year olds to write a poem or paint a picture representing their perception of the Cemetery (following school visits there).

Over 60 entries were received and the winners were: (poems) **Sky Savill-Thompson**, **Lauren Butcher** and **Dolcie Rowling**; and (paintings): **Lacey Wolton** (whose picture is displayed here), **Harvey Rann** and **Elayeha Jones**.

These six children were presented with prizes (a “*Learn all about Bird Watching*” kit; a “*Learn all about Wild Flowers*” kit; or “*Animal Tracks casting*” kit at School Assembly on 24th February. The art poems and pictures have been framed and we expect to exhibit them in the West Chapel after it becomes a Heritage Centre at the end of the HLF funded project – in late 2017.

Our grateful thanks go to **Sally Copen**, Key Stage 1 teacher at **Lanesend Primary School**, for encouraging the children and coordinating their contributions.

Fund Raising

Attracting “**Match Funding**” is a major focus to securing the funds that we need to do all the work required to restore the chapels and conduct the supporting activities, as outlined in our application to the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. No funder will give 100% of the £££s required to the recipient (that’s us) so, the bigger ‘the ask’, the bigger the match funding requirement!

And we have upped ‘the ask’ (from circa £1m to circa **£1.6m**) as you’ll see - so we have to up our **match funding** (it’s complicated – but circa 5% to 10% of the amount we seek).

In December the Life members (since they have no annual subscription to pay) were asked if they could spare another £10 each. The response was simply magnificent; to date **£735** has been received from 36 Life members - so enormous thanks go to these donors. When the cliff face is as steep as it is, it is so rewarding to get support like this.

Alas, this quest will be relentless over the coming months and years so I make no apologies to coming back to this theme time and time again. Sorry about that!!!

Jon Matthews
Chairman